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University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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‘We shine’

Benjamin presents plans to improve Columbia in annual State of the City address

Hannah Jeffrey
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Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Mayor Steve Benjamin sets the agenda for his next term in office at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on Tuesday, focusing on city improvements.

After a year of lower unemployment rates, an improved credit rating and a decrease in violent crimes, Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said he still isn't satisfied.

In the annual State of the City address Tuesday night, Benjamin laid out the agenda for his next year in office: pushing downtown skyscraper development, planning a sustainable waste recycling center, the passage of bond reform legislation and the construction of a baseball stadium that would be home to a minor league team.

"So when you ask me 'What's happening in Columbia?' I say 'A lot,'" he said. "You ask, 'What is the state of our city?' and I say 'We shine.'"

Columbia's tendency to "shine" was a common theme throughout the speech, but Benjamin made it clear that he thought there was plenty of room for improvement.

"You see, as proud as I am — as we all are — of our wide range of accomplishments, we have only just begun to scratch the surface of our potential ... only just begun to truly shine," he said.

Building the city upward instead of outward could bring increased tax revenue to Columbia, while making the city more desirable to investors, Benjamin said.

Meanwhile, an initiative to construct a recycling center that would produce fertilizer, natural gas and electricity from sewage would create a partnership between the city and the

private sector. Not only would tons of sewer sludge be recycled instead of buried in landfills, but taxpayers would be spared tens of millions of dollars, he said.

And although violent crime has seen a 24 percent decrease since 2010, Benjamin said more can be done and bigger action can be taken, especially after nine homicides in Columbia over the last year.

"It's not enough," he said. "Not when you can do more."

Legislation regarding bond reform has long been in the works, and Benjamin promised to push the City Council to accept each resolution, which would then require passage by the state legislature.

BENJAMIN • 2

Students flip out for AcroYoga

New fitness trend sparks new group, interest at practices

Hannah Richardson
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

If you stroll down the Horseshoe at the right time of week, you might just see a group of students who seem to defy the laws of gravity.

They aren't using trampolines or hanging from trees. They're doing AcroYoga, a blend of yoga, acrobatics and healing arts.

This new fitness movement has made its way to USC's campus this year.

Jana Cartee, a third-year dance education student, is one of the founders of AcroYoga on the Horseshoe.

"The best thing to me [about AcroYoga] is learning that you really can do so much more than you think you can go into it," Cartee said. "There has been lots of stuff that the first time looking at it, I never thought I'd be able to do but is now second nature to me."

The group is looking for more people to expand and meets at least once a week.

Cartee was approached with the idea to start an AcroYoga club by second-year English student Raven Shanell Mathews and USC graduate Thomas McDuffie. This fall, the three started practicing AcroYoga and spreading the word about it until they had gathered enough people to start a club.

"I've been doing acrobatics for about a year and a half in Atlanta, and Raven had done a few classes and workshops as well," Cartee said. "We've just been telling our friends about it and finding people who want to learn."

There are no requirements to join AcroYoga; many of the members do not have experience in acrobatics or yoga, but they can still perform stunts.

Cartee said his favorite stunt right now is called the "reverse buzzsaw."

"The end result kind of looks like the flier is repeatedly doing slow motion backflips in the air," Cartee said.

The group's focus has been to have fun, but members have considered bringing in people who



Kamila Melko / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students practice maintaining their balance and strength while performing acrobatic stunts.

are certified in AcroYoga to help teach them more.

"My personal goal right now is to work more with flows and creating flows," Cartee said. "It's cool to know different positions with AcroYoga, but it's more fun when you can string them together to make a continuous flow of motion."

The group has been getting the word out about the club through its Facebook page and recent organization fairs, but stopping by a practice is a great way to learn more, Cartee said.

"If they see us and want to give it a try, they can just come up and ask," she said. "We love it when people do that."

Film, panel criticize NCAA regulations

Experts, former players debate merit of strict decisions, rules

Davis Klabo
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At a showing of the EPIX documentary "Schooled: The Price of College Sports" on Tuesday, former University of North Carolina football star Devon Ramsay reflected on his experience as a college athlete.

"I felt like I'd lost everything I'd been working up to since I was 10 years old," Ramsay said, referring to the 2010 NCAA ruling that declared him ineligible, following allegations that he received special help from school tutors.

In that ruling, which was later declared unfounded by the UNC Honor Council, was discussed during the post-honoring discussion on the role of the NCAA in restricting payment and other benefits to student-athletes on the grounds that college athletes are amateurs.

The NCAA currently prohibits all outside monetary compensation to student-athletes beyond tuition and room and board scholarships and prohibits outside gifts of any kind. Those gifts can also include any sort of undue academic help or exceptions.

In Ramsay's case, that ruling was applied to a small revision carried out on one of his academic papers by a university tutor. For many other players, however, those rules can be applied to allegations of cheating or academic misconduct that is often perpetuated or ignored by university personnel.

While the NCAA maintains that these restrictions provide a fair and balanced situation in which players are devoted to their studies and the integrity of the game, many

NCAA • 2

IN BRIEF

Negotiations begin for new baseball stadium

Columbia City Council voted on Tuesday to open formal negotiations with a minor-league baseball team owner to build a public stadium in the city, The State reported.

Greenville developer Bob Hughes is overseeing a plan to build a stadium in the middle of the Bull Street neighborhood, to be completed in time for the start of the 2015 minor league season in April. At a public hearing Tuesday, he said retailers are already planning their shops around the idea of having a baseball stadium.

Opponents to the plan also voiced their opinions at the hearing, saying public money shouldn't be used to construct the stadium and that City Council should consider partnering with USC for joint use of the Gamecocks' stadium.

The expected price tag for the project is between \$35 million to \$42 million.

—*Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor*

1 suspect dead, 2 at large after armed home invasion

An armed suspect was shot and killed in Forest Acres Monday night after exchanging gunfire with a resident at the home he was invading, The State reported.

Richland County Coroner Gary Watts identified the suspect as DeShawn T. Patterson, 23, of Richland County. Two other suspects fled the scene and are still at large, according to Forest Acres Police Chief Gene Sealy.

At a news conference Tuesday, Sealy said the three suspects had knocked on the door of the residence shortly before midnight. When one of the occupants answered the door, the suspects brandished pistols and demanded money.

Sealy said none of the home's residents were injured, though one was pistol-whipped and later treated. The two remaining suspects were last seen hopping a fence on Two Notch Road.

—*Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor*

Nordstrom Rack plans store for Harbison Blvd.

A discount division of Nordstrom Inc. will soon take over the retail space once held by Barnes & Noble on Harbison Boulevard, the company said in a release.

Nordstrom Rack will offer its customers 30 percent to 70 percent off the regular price for shoes, clothes and accessories and will be the second store to open in South Carolina. The company announced last November that it would open a store in Greenville.

The Columbia location will be Nordstrom Rack's ninth location, and DDR Corp., which owns the shopping center, says it will give the mall a new facade for the opening.

Both of the South Carolina stores are expected to open sometime this year.

—*Sarah Martin, Assistant News Editor*

BENJAMIN • Continued from 1

Additionally, a pedestrian district in Five Points, a parking and transportation plan designed for the area and monthly meetings between the city and local business owners would bridge the gap between the government and community, he said.

"This isn't a game," he said. "People are dying, and it's time to stand up and take action. This is a community problem and requires a community solution."

Columbia's opportunity to improve as a community, Benjamin said, is through the baseball stadium planned for downtown.

Through the development, 1,600

jobs would be created and \$18.5 million in tax revenues would come in annually. However, the stadium alone would cost the city about \$35 million; to afford the stadium and the surrounding infrastructure commitments, the city is considering taking on debt.

But Benjamin was not discouraged by numbers. Instead, he said he plans to move past the critics and naysayers and make the improvements he feels Columbia needs most.

"We choose instead to believe. We choose to dream big and act boldly," he said. "We choose to shine."

DG

NCAA • Continued from 1

have made the case that they are simply unfair to the student-athletes themselves.

The film featured specialists in college athletics, former players and college officials from NCAA Division I programs to argue that such restrictions place undue burdens on student-athletes, many of whom participate in football for more than 40 hours a week.

Mary Willingham, a learning specialist at UNC who previously worked with student-athletes, also argued that educational opportunities for many recruits, some of whom enter college with reading abilities around an eighth-grade level, are not sufficient. She pointed to an athletic culture focused on winning records rather than graduating athletes, a culture that often leaves student-athletes undereducated at the end of their college career.

These opinions were also discussed at a panel discussion by relevant experts that occurred at the conclusion of the film's showing. Panelists included Andrew Muscato,

the film's producer; Devon Ramsay, a player featured in the film; Robert Turner, a former professional football player turned sociologist; Richard Southall, director of the College Sport Research Institute and Dwayne Ballen, a former national sports reporter who moderated the panel.

The panelists discussed ideas like the "C's get degrees" mentality held by many players, the inherent unfairness presented to student-athletes who provide major benefit for their universities without compensation and educational problems that many student-athletes face due to their commitment to sports, particularly the difficulty of managing a quality education with the stresses of collegiate sports.

At one memorable moment, Ramsay was sarcastically questioned as to whether or not his recruiting coach made it clear that education was his No. 1 priority.

"Yeah, yeah," Ramsay jokingly replied, "for sure."

DG

A college and 20-something's worship service.



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6 p.m., RH 305

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THE VOTE



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FILING FOR CANDIDACY

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Second floor of RH, across from Einstein's



For more information, please visit sa.sc.edu/sg/electioninformation



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1 day left to file for SG elections

Chief justice takes leave of absence to run

Sarah Martin & Thad Moore
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Constitutional Council Chief Justice Donald Iorio announced in a memo Tuesday night that he is taking a leave of absence from his position after filing to run for student body vice president. Iorio said he made

his decision in order to maintain the council's integrity during the upcoming elections and that he will be training associate justices until elections officially begin on Jan. 28. Because Iorio is taking a leave of absence and not resigning, he said he will be able to return to his role as chief justice if his campaign is unsuccessful. The two-day filing period for Student Government elections

ends today, so students have until 4 p.m. to submit their intent to run for office. Forms should be submitted at the Campus Life Center, Russell House room 227. Filing costs \$5 for senate seats and \$50 for student body president, vice president and treasurer. The paperwork is found online at <http://www.sa.sc.edu/sg/electioninformation>.

DG

www.dailygamecock.com blogs, videos, galleries and more



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Kelsey spent her semester studying English and fine arts in Canterbury, England. So can you. See it for yourself.

TUESDAY
January
28

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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Join us to learn how you can study, intern, research or volunteer abroad, and see the world for yourself.

It's Here!



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We'll be handing out Coupon Books and Krispy Kreme doughnuts TODAY from 11 - 1 on Greene St.



Can't find a coupon book? Come grab one in our office at Russell House Room 331

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City should focus on foundation, not facade

ISSUE
Mayor Steve Benjamin outlined plans for Columbia's new year.

OUR STANCE
The ambition is nice, but the focus is misplaced.

Mayor Steve Benjamin sure had a lot to say in his annual State of the City address, but we're not sure if the focus was where we'd have liked it.

He boldly discussed early on his plans to repurpose our sewage into fertilizer to support our growing, verdant community. While we appreciate his green thumb intent, sludge repurposing shouldn't be near the top of Columbia's priorities.

Benjamin also said he would like to see more skyscrapers built as a means to galvanize the economy and create more jobs. Talking like that is sure to create some buzz, but before we can build toward the skies, we may need to create a stronger foundation.

Unfortunately, a strong foundation doesn't usually entail

a minor league baseball stadium. As much as Benjamin may want to fast-track the stadium that's been proposed for the upcoming Bull Street development, more deliberation and careful consideration is in order. Columbia doesn't exactly have a rich history of minor league baseball.

Granted, poor facilities helped drive the last team out of town, but why should we expect this go-around to be much different? With a nationally competitive college baseball team, the market for a minor league team isn't as healthy as Columbia would like. We realize that minor league

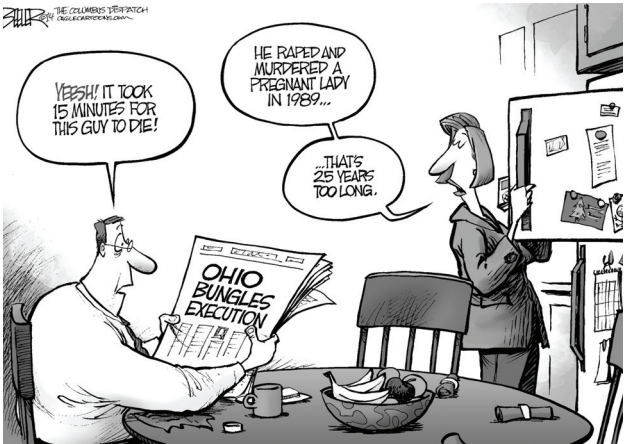
"We have no doubt that one day Columbia will be the bustling cityscape all of its leaders want it to be, but for now, we'd best focus on repairing its foundation."

tickets are typically cheaper than college ones, but will enough of those tickets be sold to cover the near \$40 million necessary for the stadium?

One contrarian is advocating ditching the stadium and building utopic apartments and condominiums in its place, which sounds a little more practical. Still, the prospect of taking on more debt isn't an appealing thought.

We appreciate Benjamin's ambition, but we can't exactly condone his focus on material development when we grapple with arguably more important issues regarding the community on a daily basis, such as crime and homelessness. There's no quick fix to either of those problems, but we would like to be assured that people are on the job to mend them.

We have no doubt that one day Columbia will be the bustling cityscape all of its leaders want it to be, but for now, we'd best focus on repairing its foundation.



USC should reign in spending to keep tuition low

Budget, bill full of extraneous, unnecessary charges

Every year without fail, tuition is increased at virtually every college and university across the nation. The same scenario applies to tuition at USC.

While there are undoubtedly significant expenditures requiring a large pool of funds, a large business such as this university has plenty of room to be more efficient. While some tuition hikes are necessary, every measure should be taken to minimize tuition for students. There are several areas in which spending could be reduced.

I have attended USC for almost six years, and rather than noticing a decline in construction after a couple of years, construction picks up every year. First of all, any construction that hinders parking should be completed during the summer.

Everyone wants nice grounds to look at and observe, but the never-ending carousel of construction and expenditure around campus is wasting money.

Some students would rather have affordable education than solar-powered trash cans that are placed in the shade and underneath trees on Greene Street. Building maintenance would be a more appropriate use of funds given the university's recent fines for improper disposal of asbestos.

Another simple method to reduce overall education costs is to reign in the use of textbooks. In some classes, books are listed as required and then seldom used more than once or twice as a reference. A library take-back day would be nice, too. This would allow students who no longer need the course textbook to donate it to the library which in turn would have it available for the next student in need.

Cutting back on required materials in general would alleviate some students' costs. Many classes require iClickers or some other electronic device that is often conveniently sold only at the Russell House.

The frequently and incorrectly assessed technology fee should also be done away with or at least reduced. Students in professional schools such as pharmacy spend their last year or so off campus on internships, yet they are assessed a technology fee for technology they are never on campus to take advantage of.

Finally, the past couple of football seasons have rendered much debate regarding how to distribute student tickets and on what basis. Since not all students are awarded a ticket to football games, it would be nice if students who do not desire to go would be able to opt out of the athletics fee.

Some students just want an education at USC. College is expensive, but in exchange for considerable loans assessed after graduation, students' money should be spent much less frivolously.



Steven Asbill
Fourth-year pharmacy student

Some technology pitfalls self-inflicted

Snowden's warning among many concerns

National Security Agency whistle-blower Edward Snowden made it back into international news headlines last weekend following renewed accusations that he leaked U.S. intelligence in alliance with Russian spies. Simultaneously, President Barack Obama made a speech on NSA reforms that many are suggesting fell short of any real change to surveillance policies.

The scandal, which emerged last year, sparked endless debates over what some saw as the right to protection, while Snowden supporters argued that the whistle-blower's revelations uncovered a dramatic breach against the right to privacy.

Snowden delivered an alternative Christmas message to British audiences on Christmas Day last year. He argued that the forms of surveillance and technology we have today surpass the simple microphones, TV screens and video cameras featured in George Orwell's infamous vision of dystopia in "1984."

"A child born today will grow up with no conception of privacy at all. They'll never know what it means to have a private moment to themselves," he said. "Privacy allows us to determine who we are and who we want to be."

This got me thinking about the effect of technology on the everyday student. As an international student in a long-distance relationship, my life would be drastically different without modern technology, as

it has afforded me with many opportunities to contact home. The ability to get directions from my smartphone continually absolves my embarrassing map-reading skills, and the majority of my social life is organized through Facebook invitations and group messages.

But when I'm out for dinner with my friends and I look around only to see everyone's foreheads because their gazes are transfixed on their smartphones, I can't help but think that there's an even darker side to the infringement of privacy that Snowden warned us against — a kind of intrusion that we bring upon ourselves.

When it comes to social networking and reliance upon technology, I'm certainly no saint. I use Snapchat, I use WhatsApp, I use Facebook, I use Twitter, I use Instagram, I use WordPress, and I use Skype, among others. While many of these apps enhance different aspects of my social life, their handheld availability makes me part of a generation in which technological communication is replacing face-to-face engagement with the real world.

While it can be argued that social networking and technology make the world more connected, a case can also be made that they encourage social disconnectedness. We can access news updates, news feeds, tweets, gossip columns, selfies



Evelyn Robinson
Second-year English and history student

and personal messages instantly, but a reliance on these forms of communication can begin to replace affectionate intuition and our sense of ourselves.

There have been countless times that I've tried to avoid awkward situations by texting someone instead of actually speaking to them. Sometimes, I find myself habitually scrolling through my Facebook and Twitter feeds for the third time in an hour just because I have nothing else to do. When I went home for Christmas, friends I hadn't seen for months initiated conversation by saying things like, "I saw on Facebook that you've been having an amazing time."

Most of all, our generation is at risk of becoming forever associated with distractedness. My heart sinks when I'm speaking to someone else and they feel so compelled by the metal slab in their pocket or so disinterested by what I'm saying that for the rest of the conversation, all I get are nonchalant, intermittent, "Yehs" and a couple of nods.

Worst of all, I know that this is something I do myself.

The world may be becoming smaller, more accessible and more instant, but it's making us emotionally disconnected. We complain about the right to privacy, but on another level, we encourage infiltration and allow technological communication to replace engagement with the real world. In Snowden's words, technology is slowly becoming capable of defining "who we are and who we want to be."

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to editor@dailygamecock.com. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and

include the author's name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today's edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.

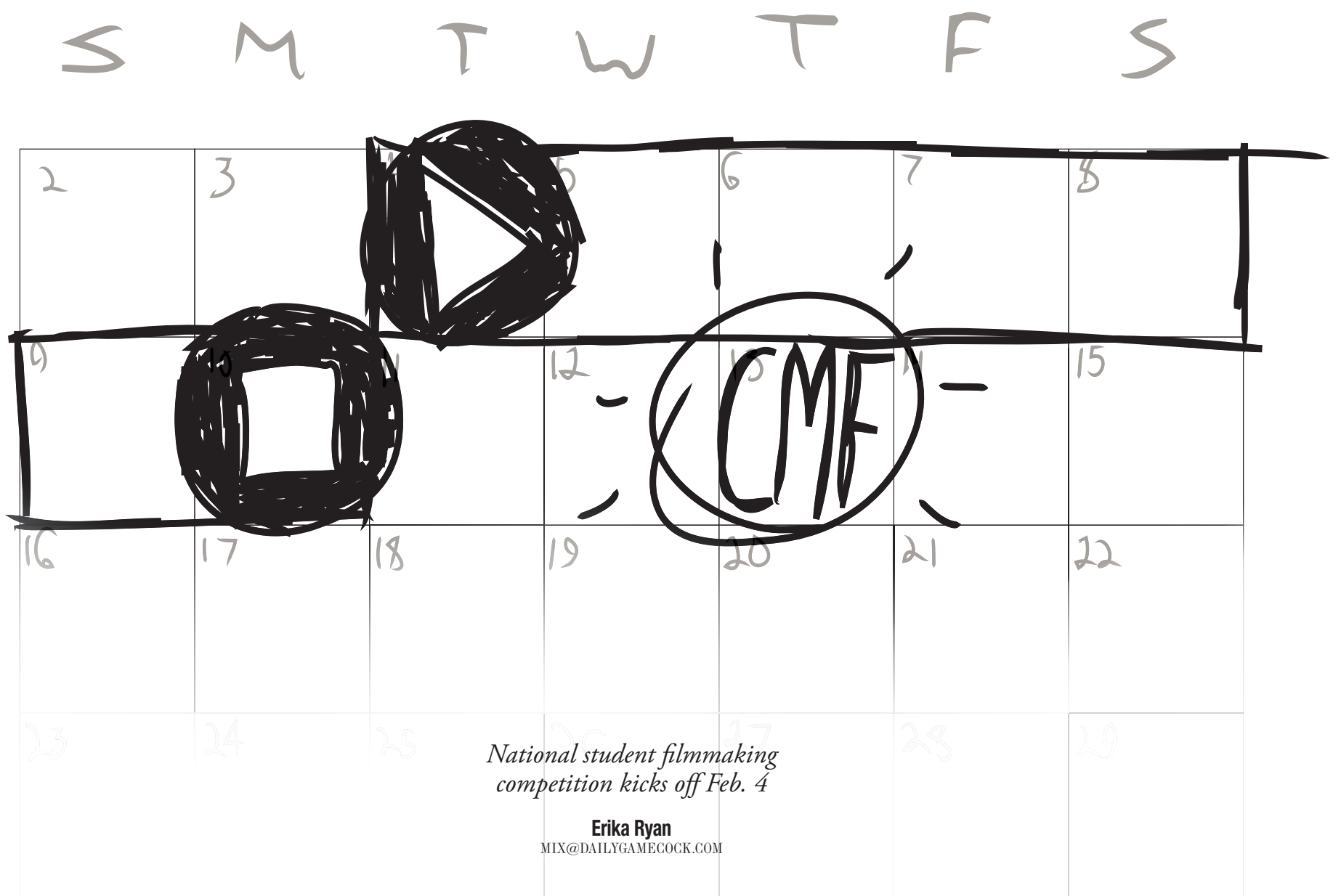
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Campus MovieFest returns to USC



The 13th annual Campus MovieFest will return to USC for its fourth visit on Feb. 4.

Campus MovieFest is an opportunity for students to make a short film in one week. The program provides professional high-definition cameras, other equipment, editing software and laptops and teaches participants how to use them. And it's completely free.

Winners could receive \$20,000 cash, exposure opportunities, Hollywood pitch meetings and other prizes. The top films nationally are also showcased in-flight on Virgin America and at the Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner.

J.R. Hardman, tour manager for Campus MovieFest, said she encourages everyone, from undergraduates to graduate students, to get involved.

"We have media arts majors, English majors, science majors do the contest. We've even had people change their major because they realized how much they liked making movies," Hardman said.

Short films from all genres are accepted, but by entering the social justice category, students will be eligible to win up to \$20,000 in cash grants. The Elfenworks Foundation is working with Campus MovieFest to encourage students to make films to spread awareness about social

injustice, including poverty, homelessness and corruption, with the purpose of making a difference in the community.

"The Elfenworks social justice category is a great opportunity. Students can make their movies about whatever they want, but that specific category is awesome because it encourages people to try and make a change," Hardman said.

CMF is lenient with regards to group sizes and submissions, so experimental and nontraditional takes on genres are eligible to win. Students are encouraged to make a film that inspires them.

"People shouldn't be intimidated by Campus MovieFest; we provide technical support on campus all week, and first-time filmmakers have won things in the past. We'll help students do anything from finding actors to writing their script. We're absolutely there to give people advice," Hardman said.

The Red Carpet Finale, when the short films will be screened for the public, will take place on Feb. 13.

Registration is online at http://www.campusmoviefest.com/users/sign_up.

DG

‘Lone Survivor’ rekindles anger over war

Violent account of heroism undermined by clichés

Jonathan Winchell
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

"Lone Survivor"
NOW IN THEATERS



Director: Peter Berg

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch

Rating: R for strong bloody war violence and pervasive language

Paul Berg (“Fright Night Lights” (2004), “The Kingdom” (2007)) wrote and directed “Lone Survivor,” a visceral account of the failed 2005 Navy SEAL mission “Operation Red Wings” in Afghanistan.

Four Seals were sent into the Hindu Kush mountains to apprehend a Taliban leader named Ahmad Shah, who had been killing American soldiers.

As the title suggests and the opening scene attests, the mission goes horribly wrong, and only Marcus Luttrell (Mark Wahlberg) survives. The other men who died were Lt. Michael P.



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Mark Wahlberg (right) and Emile Hirsch run and gun in the Navy SEAL war epic, based on a real mission gone wrong.

“Murph” Murphy (Taylor Kitsch), Gunner’s Mate Danny Dietz (Emile Hirsch) and Sonar Technician Matthew “Axe” Axelson (Ben Foster). Their commanding officer, Erik S. Kristensen (Eric Bana), died along with sixteen other men in a helicopter crash trying to rescue them.

The film quickly gets the four men into the mountains on their mission, and before long, they have trouble sending radio signals to Kristensen back on base. An old man and two younger men stumble upon the SEALs and disrupt their mission. Weighing their options, they decide to let the Afghans go and retreat.

Unfortunately, before a helicopter can come in to pick them up, the Taliban is surrounding the

small team, and the next 45 minutes or so of the film depict in graphic, painful detail their fight and — for all but Luttrell — their deaths.

The film shows how much U.S. troops go through to serve their country and how often they do so for unworthy causes. These young men were in a country the U.S. had no business in and lost their lives because of poor communication and planning. What happens to the soldiers will make most viewers' blood boil. Viewers' political views might affect what they take away from the film.

The film conveys a deep respect for the troops but also a sense of profound sadness and loss. Even though the film portrays the soldiers as

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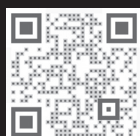


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SURVIVOR • Continued from 5

uncompromising in their bravery and commitment, it becomes an anti-war statement.

The action scenes, which take up large sections of the film, are heart-racing and intense. All of the commotion is staged so that the viewer can always tell what is happening and how the separate areas of action are taking place spatially and temporally while always retaining the hectic nature of the fighting. The contrast of the serene mountain silence and the deafening whizzing of bullets adds to the realism, unsettling the viewer.

Too often, however, the film resorts to amped-up action movie clichés that turn the true-life heroes into invincible killing machines long past a realistic point, given their wounds and how outnumbered they were. In the real mission, could the men really crash down the mountainside repeatedly, get up and still gun down a dozen Taliban

members?

In the mix of harrowing battle, the director slows down and shows certain deaths in slow motion artiness complete with sun flares on the camera. The film could have done without some of the cinematography and heroics that make the soldiers seem saintly when the point is to show them as brave but human.

Much more effective is the death of Axelson as he lies dying against a tree with the Taliban shooting bullets towards his head until they make the kill shot. The blunt realism is more emotionally powerful and honest than the overly dramatic slow-motion deaths.

“Lone Survivor” works as an angry, violent account of war with fierce action filmmaking, even if it resorts to unnecessary action movie tropes that make the soldiers overly indestructible, undermining some of its impact.

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HOROSCOPES

THE SCENE

Aries
You and a partner can stir things today and tomorrow. Follow a strong leader. Renew family bonds. Accept an offer of assistance. Offer support. Listen carefully, and be receptive.

Taurus
Focus on work for the next two days. You have what you need at home. Provide great service, and earn more money. Dig into a big job. Build your egg's nest, stick by stick.

Gemini
Love and fun are priorities today and tomorrow. Fly and be free. You get what you want. Use your connections. Enjoy your love, surrounded by family and kindred spirits. Determine your stand.

Cancer
The pace and emotion runs high at home today and tomorrow. Calm your thoughts. Share what you've gathered. The boss is feeling generous. Your home and family require more attention. There's enough to go around.

Leo
The next two days are excellent for studying. Think, and grow rich. You can learn quickly, so pay attention. Get ready to take action. You're extra brilliant. Express your passion for a cause.

Virgo
A new assignment brings in more revenue. Work hard today and tomorrow. Call your mother. Talk over details privately. A blinding insight could provide freedom.

Libra
Today and tomorrow, you're more assertive and innovative. Freedom and justice inspire you. Involve the group in the plan. Keep yourself grounded with time in nature. Learn to connect.

Scorpio
The next two days reveal a contemplative phase. Your relationships and connections grow with synchronicity. Keep an eye on the competition. Don't overwork yourself. Relax in hot water and recharge. Treat yourself.

Sagittarius
Schedule meetings for tomorrow. Others respect your growing wisdom. You can always include another into your circle of friends. Integrate yourself into your community.

Capricorn
Your partnership harmony increases. Advance your big picture plan today and tomorrow. Do it for home and family. A very profitable condition is in effect. Gather as many nuts as possible.

Aquarius
Peak performance occurs now. Consider attending a class or seminar over the next two days. Do the numbers for your business plan. The news affects your decisions. Excellent party conditions tempt you to play.

Pisces
Figure out your finances today and tomorrow. Review income and fixed expenses like insurance. Increase responsibility, and earn more. Move a passionate cause forward simultaneously. Keep planning the logic.




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Sudoku By The Mephram Group 1/22/14

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|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 9 | | | | 7 | |
| 6 | | | 7 | | 3 | | | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | 7 | | | 4 | 2 | | |
| 9 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| | | 4 | 1 | | | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 7 | | | 3 | | 9 | | | 8 |
| | 2 | | | | 1 | | | |

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

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Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 1/22/14

ACROSS
1 Engage in logrolling
5 Not quite right
8 Life Savers, e.g.
13 Miss ___
14 Depression era prog.
15 1983 World Cup skiing champ
McKinney
16 Abel, vis-à-vis Adam: Abbr.
17 Try
18 Saw
19 Controversial fuel
21 Annoys
22 "No way!"
23 Kyrgyzstan border town
24 Birmingham band, briefly
25 Fed. auditing agency
26 Shout
27 Entered
29 But, to Brutus
30 Replete
31 Divisions
politiques
34 Pig thief of rhyme
35 Waterproof boots brand
36 One arriving during the overture, say
38 Literary contraction
39 Platoon provender
40 Lending letters
41 Small trip
44 Words With Friends, e.g.
45 Macavity creator's monogram
46 Idle fancy
48 Tray carrier, perhaps
50 Series of clips
51 Sleep inducer
52 Airport screening org.
53 They're above pvt.s.
54 Kisser
55 Overseas assent
56 Playground rejoinder
57 Corporate ___

DOWN
1 No-goodnik
2 Summer cooler
3 Form hastily, as judgment
4 Old Renault
5 In agreement
6 Inconsequential
7 It doesn't last
8 Feature of many a monster movie
9 Troublemakers
10 Passed the test in a big way
11 Mountain demarcation
12 "Teen Angel" et al.
15 Enticing ad
20 Called for
21 Nonsense
28 Harrow rival
29 Leave be
30 Stem at sea
31 Quick Draw McGraw alter ego with a guitar for a weapon
32 Roofer's material
33 With consequences
34 In shape

58 45, say: Abbr.
59 No longer hidden

For solutions to today's puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

37 Sock seller
38 Joseph's second son
40 Elicits a scolding
41 Distressed request
42 Ultimatum words
43 Protestant cleric
47 Layered minerals
49 Auto title datum
52 Perch for a puma



Olivia Barthel / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Elixane Lechemia won her doubles match with Meghan Blevins and picked up a singles victory playing in the No. 1 slot against the College of Charleston on Saturday.

Gamecocks defeat C of C, East Tennessee State

Brett Williams
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

After ending last season on a four-match losing streak, the South Carolina women's tennis team was anxious to find success early in 2014.

On Saturday, the Gamecocks found it, opening the season with a pair of victories.

But as the doubleheader showed, victories may look the same in the win column, but the way they are earned vary from match to match.

South Carolina defeated East Tennessee State 4-3 and College of Charleston 6-1 in matches played in the Field House rather than the Carolina Tennis Center because the outdoor temperature never reached 50 degrees. The change in location reflected the unique nature of the doubleheader, which saw the Gamecocks win once by superior performance and once by default.

South Carolina (2-0, 0-0 SEC)

justified its preseason No. 33 national rank from the start of the afternoon match against College of Charleston (1-2, 0-0 CAA). The Gamecocks quickly won the doubles point, as both top pairings — junior Meghan Blevins with junior Elixane Lechemia and senior Katerina Popova with sophomore Ximena Siles Luna — dismissed their Cougar opponents with 6-1 set victories.

"I think we match each other (well) in doubles," Lechemia said of her on-court chemistry with Blevins. "We're both really aggressive. ... She has a really good volley; I have a good serve."

Lechemia brought the same intensity to her singles match. Playing in the No. 1 slot, she picked up an easy point for the Gamecocks by topping Kelly Kamboureilis in straight sets 6-1, 6-0.

Coach Kevin Epley saw significant improvement in Lechemia's game, something he largely attributes to the France native's adjustment to American collegiate tennis over the last year.

"She had some struggles with her forehand last year, and she started to get

clearer in terms of her purpose with the forehand," Epley said. "She's getting in tighter behind her serve; she's getting in faster; ... she's all around a bigger threat."

Blevins, a transfer from Oklahoma State, also proved to be quite a threat in her South Carolina debut. She followed up the doubles win in No. 4 singles play with a defeat of Katherine Schofield 6-3, 6-1.

Although a newcomer, she emerged as one of the Gamecocks' vocal leaders, consistently calling out words of encouragement to her teammates between points.

"That's just always been my thing, to be a little bit louder," Blevins said. "It's what you feel comfortable with. ... It makes it easier for me to play my game like that."

For all the energy that characterized the second match of the doubleheader, hardly any action distinguished the first.

With a roster depleted by injuries and illness, East Tennessee State (0-1, 0-0 Atlantic Sun) was only able to

field three singles players. This gave South Carolina four points from three singles matches and overall doubles by default, securing a team victory before any individuals began play.

The Gamecocks lost all three of the matchups that were actually completed, but the unusual situation allowed Epley to change his typical lineup in order to evaluate talent further down on the depth chart.

"It was a good match as far as experience goes," Epley said. "[It was about some players] playing higher in the lineup than they would, testing their confidence a little bit. They did pretty well, so we're happy."

South Carolina hopes its performance against College of Charleston, and the format of the overall match, will repeat itself as the season progresses.

"We're on the right track," Epley said. "A lot of our girls are playing at a high level. [But] there are teams better than us, so we just have to close that gap, day by day."

DG

Men's team looks for conference win at UGA

Martin: Team further along in finding identity, not fully there

Tanner Abel
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

For the South Carolina men's basketball team, a 10-point halftime lead against Ole Miss on Saturday was not enough to warrant a victory in SEC play.

So the Gamecocks (7-10, 0-4 SEC) will try to capture that elusive first conference win when they travel to Georgia (9-7, 3-1 SEC) on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Head coach Frank Martin said after the loss to the Rebels that South Carolina must do a much better job of defensive rebounding. Freshman forward Demetrius Henry and sophomore forward Laimonas Chatkevicius have been among those struggling to get in the right position on rebounds.

"We were actually rebounding the ball real well through December, and I don't know what's happened, but it's got to get fixed," Martin said in his Tuesday press conference.

At 6-foot-9 and 215 pounds, Henry's skinny frame has made it tough on him to box out bigger opposing players and play defense without fouling. Improving his frame is likely a job for the offseason, since it is difficult to put on weight during the year. In the meantime, Henry and the rest of the Gamecocks' bigs must keep working to improve on the defensive glass if the team is to start winning games in the SEC.

"It will be more effective if we all will be more active on our feet and go get the ball, not wait for it to hit our hands," Chatkevicius said.

Georgia has also gone through some early-season growing pains, especially after losing last year's leading scorer Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, who was a first-round pick in the last NBA Draft. Caldwell-Pope was the clear go-to option last season when the Bulldogs needed scoring. This year's team scores more by committee rather than having a player who sticks out



Jeffrey Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Laimonas Chatkevicius (with ball) said the team's mentality has remained "pretty decent" despite its recent losses.

like Caldwell-Pope.

Guard play is one of the Bulldogs' biggest strengths, with sophomores Kenny Gaines and Charles Mann setting the pace in scoring. Mann leads the team with a

little over 13 points and roughly three assists per game. Gaines is averaging just below 12 points a game.

"Our on-ball defense better be good, because they have big, strong, athletic guards and they just bull-rush you the way they drive the ball," Martin said.

Junior forward Nemanja Djuricic has also been a key contributor for the Bulldogs, with around 10 points and four rebounds per contest. The 6-foot-8, 230-pounder from Montenegro should have a good battle with the Gamecocks' sophomore forward Mindaugas Kacinas on Wednesday.

Junior forward Marcus Thornton is Georgia's leading rebounder, with around five and a half rebounds and around seven points per game. Henry (4.2 rebounds per game) and Chatkevicius (3.2) will likely need to improve on their average rebounds per game if South Carolina is to defeat the Bulldogs.

Chatkevicius said the Gamecocks' mentality has stayed "pretty decent" through all of the tough losses. The most recent defeat against Ole Miss was only decided by one point.

"Everybody keeps trying their best," he said. "Before every game in the SEC, I was going into the game really confident about the team. The team is still really hungry for the win."

Martin stressed how he hates losing, but acknowledged he has to be patient in educating his young team. He added that South Carolina is further along in finding its identity but is not fully there yet.

Martin also said that he was proud of his team for not getting rattled on the road against Texas A&M last week, where the atmosphere was loud. The Gamecocks led for a good portion of that game, but did not come out on top.

Martin also said the team knows what it is facing against the Bulldogs and knows it will not get any easier to be victorious in an SEC game.

"It's going to be a hard matchup for us; Georgia is playing real well," he said. "They have found their identity."

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